THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to National Archives of India, no archival documents are available. However, some information is available in Journals and Gazetteers.

(c) to (f) Such project for Buxar has not been prioritized as project proposals have not been received from State Government.

Project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories that are complete in all respect are examined as per scheme guidelines and approved on the basis of *inter-se* priority and funds released subject to availability under the respective head.

Growth in foreign tourist arrivals

4414. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any growth in foreign tourist arrivals in the year, 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken towards achieving full tourism potential?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The foreign tourist arrivals to India in 2006 were estimated at 4.43 million, registering a growth of 13% over 2005.

(c) The steps being taken by the Government include:—

* Development of tourist spots under its various schemes of infrastructure development for tourist circuits and destinations;
* Focusing on growth of hotel infrastructure particularly budget hotels;
* Enhancing connectivity through augmentation of air capacity and improving road infrastructure to major tourist attractions;
* Direct approach to the consumers through Electronic and Print Media through the "Incredible India" Campaign;
* Creation of World Class Collaterals;
* Direct co-operative marketing with the Airlines, tour operators and wholesalers overseas;

* According greater focus in the emerging markets particularly in the region of China, North East Asia and South East Asia;
* Participation in Trade Fairs & Exhibitions;
* Optimizing the PR and Publicity;
* Use of Internet and web marketing;
* Generating Tourist Publications; and
* Re-inforced hospitality programmes including grant of air passages to invite the media personnel, tour operators on familiarization tour to India to get first hand knowledge on various tourism products.

Irrigation projects in Jharkhand

4415. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the execution status of major and medium irrigation projects undertaken in Jharkhand during the Tenth Five Year Plan, showing spill overs from the Ninth Plan separately, indicating their estimated cost and cost over-run, if any;

(b) the total area of land to be irrigated on completion thereof;

(c) the percentage of land that would thus be brought under irrigation at the conclusion of the Tenth Plan *vis-a-vis* the ultimate irrigation potential in the State; and

(d) the details of land covered under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme indicating the number of AIBP projects, the size of land covered by each and fund allocated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The financial and physical status of ongoing major, medium and ERM projects in the State of Jharkhand during X Plan, including those projects which spilled over from IX plan, is given the Statement-I (*See* below). The total ultimate irrigation potential of these projects is 682.75 th. ha.

(c) As per Report of the Working Group on Water Resources for the XI Five Year Plan, about 48 percent of the total ultimate irrigation potential is envisaged to be created by the end of X Plan.

(d) The details for the schemes under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) in this regard are given in the Statement-II (*See* below).